

GRACE MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1022 Main Street
Darlington
Harford County
Maryland

HABS MD-1233
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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GRACE MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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- Location:** 1022 Main Street, Darlington, Harford County, Maryland.
The coordinates for Grace Memorial Episcopal Church are 76.121684 W and 39.381445 N, and they were obtained through Google Earth in November 2011 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.
- Significance:** Grace Memorial Episcopal Church is a fine example of Gothic Revival church architecture designed by Philadelphia architect Theophilus Parsons Chandler, Jr. in 1876. It is Darlington's most widely publicized building, having been published in *American Architect and Building News* in 1878. Chandler was well-known for his church buildings and elite residences such as the DuPont's Winterthur estate in Delaware.
- Description:** Grace Memorial is a small-scale Gothic Revival church built with local green-gray Deer Creek soapstone, and roof slates and green marble details made from stone quarried in nearby Cardiff. It has a steeply pitched roof and decorative cross-gables enclosing the door and window openings. Other Gothic Revival details include wall buttresses, lancet windows, and a bell cote topped by stone crosses. The interior features the original oak pews and black walnut chancel furniture (such as the altar and pulpit), made from locally felled trees.
- History:** Local merchant/philanthropist D.C. Wharton Smith had the church built as a memorial to his father, Milton Smith. He chose Philadelphia architect Theophilus Parsons Chandler, Jr., who had studied at Harvard and at the Atelier Vaudremer in Paris. Chandler's work included churches such as Church of the New Jerusalem in Philadelphia, Calvary Church in Washington, D.C., and First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. His residential work included the DuPont Winterthur house in Delaware, John Wanamaker's house in Philadelphia, and L.Z. Leiter's house on Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C..
- Sources:** Christopher Weeks, *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 342.
- Historian:** Lisa Pfueller Davidson, HABS Historian, 2006.
- Project Information:** This short form history was prepared to supplement photographic documentation of Harford County, Maryland. During 2005 HABS staff photographer James Rosenthal photographed a series of sites in Harford County in preparation for the *Buildings of Maryland* publication. Maryland Historical Trust sponsored the photography project and is producing *Buildings of Maryland* as part of the Society of Architectural Historians' *Buildings of the United States* series.